



The Ripline

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Union/BUHABS/

Supplement

2000/2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Welcome to another supplementary issue of The Ripline, and the last issue for this academic year. As exams draw near for undergrads there is a light on the horizon for all as Foot and Mouth seems to be in decline. Flying should be resuming towards the summer, so be sure to fill out the summer availability form enclosed. Also in this issue are details of some tethers planned during the middle of June and a inter-university challenge to be held by Loughborough University Balloon Club.

John Burnett

**INSIDE: SUMMER 2001 AVAILABILITY FORM
MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

POST EXAM TETHERS

Ever seen the nightglow at Bristol International balloon fiesta? Tethering involves inflating a hot air balloon whilst it is tied to the ground, and is what is done to the balloons during the nightglow. The tethers we plan to hold will not be at night, but should form quite a spectacle nonetheless. As you can see, the tethers are to be held at Wills Hall in Stoke Bishop, so just come along and have a look and bring a few friends. We will be holding the postponed inflation of all five BUHABS balloons on the Saturday evening. To confirm whether a tether will take place, please call Simon Jenkins the afternoon before it is scheduled.

TETHER @ WILLS HALL 1900 WED 13 JUNE & 1900 THU 14 JUNE

**ALL FIVE BUHABS BALLOONS @ WILLS HALL
1800 SAT 16 JUNE - RESERVE 0700 SUN 17 JUNE**

WRBBAC TETHER SUN 17 JUNE

TETHER @ WILLS HALL 1900 TUE 19 JUNE & 1900 WED 20 JUNE



INTER-UNIVERSITIES EVENT

**EVENT HELD BY LOUGHBOROUGH UNI BALLOON CLUB
WEEKEND OF FRI 23 JUNE - SUN 25 JUNE 2001**



BUHABS is organising a trip to attend this Inter-University Event to be held by Loughborough University Hot Air Balloon Club after exams. Lots of other university clubs are also planning to attend, including Bath, Oxford, Cardiff and Edinburgh. The event is to be held near Loughborough and activities are planned for if we are able to fly or not. These include Robin Hood themed activities, such as visiting Nottingham castle.

Loughborough are also organising a Balloonists Ball for the Saturday night, which will happen regardless of flying. Tickets for this ball will be £14. The event should be a brilliant chance to meet people, as well as a great party on Saturday night. Please contact Lee using the details below for further information if you would like to go. The total cost of the weekend is yet to be arranged, but shouldn't be too much.

INTERESTED? CONTACT: LEE HOOPER

NEWSLINE

OUT OF DATE BALLOONING NEWS PLAGIARISED HERE FIRST

SOLO ROUND-THE-WORLD ATTEMPT

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) -- American adventurer Steve Fossett plans to try again to become the first man to float solo around the globe in a balloon, reports said recently. Fossett said he plans to take off from Kalgoorlie, a gold mining town in the western Australian desert, on June 1.

Fossett, a Chicago-based millionaire, said he would spend about 15 days in a capsule little bigger than a bath tub if the trip is successful. "It so happens that it is the most important remaining thing to be done in ballooning," he told The Weekend Australian newspaper.

Fossett already holds the solo balloon flight record -- 14,236 miles -- set in 1998. That trip ended when a storm off the Australian coast sent his balloon plunging into the Pacific. In March 1999, Swiss psychiatrist Bertrand Piccard and English balloon instructor Brian Jones became the first people to circle the world nonstop in a hot air balloon.

High Flyers

ristol University Hot Air Ballooning Society (BUHABS) has been flying for fifteen years, in which time we have had two balloons, fifteen pilots and literally over a thousand members. Now, BUHABS is the most successful student ballooning society in the country, and we have over one hundred members just every year. In addition, this year's committee is made up of newly appointed current and former members.

BUHABS are fifteen years old and are a registered charity. We are a friendly and welcoming society and we are always looking for new members. We are a friendly and welcoming society and we are always looking for new members.



the society were very well and the dinner on Saturday evening was a great success. It was attended by many people, including ex-BUHABS members and Loughborough University Balloon Club. We hope to hold a similar dinner for BUHABS balloons sometime in the future at Wills Hall.

Membership to BUHABS costs just £10 and is open to anyone associated with the University. We try to offer our flying party every weekend, and if the weather is suitable we will fly by Starlight (late 2002 and 2003) too. We are a friendly and welcoming society and we are always looking for new members.

John Burnett
2nd Year Mech Eng

BUHABS APPEARS IN ENGINEERING FACULTY NEWSLETTER

BUHABS has been fortunate enough to appear in this month's engineering faculty newsletter, The Brief. We got a third of a page and a nice big picture of our balloon. The article included details of the club, information about membership and our fifteenth anniversary celebrations last term. I've attempted to scan it in for you, but I expect you can't read it. If you are an engineer then peruse a copy next time you are in the JCR or MVB, otherwise our hard working web editor Big Bird has put a version on the net. The address of our website is on the front of this issue, and if you haven't visited it yet I strongly recommend it. It's even got a new survey on the front page so you can say what you think about it!

SO, YOU THINK YOU ARE HAVING A BAD DAY?

So, you've got an exam tomorrow, or you can't fly your balloon because it is too windy, well nevermind, just think of these poor souls. Number 4 is enough to give me nightmares.

1. The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$380,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensive saved animals were released back into the wild amidst cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later they were both eaten by a killer whale.
2. A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood by the back door, breaking his arm in two places. Until that moment, he had been happily listening to his walkman.
3. An Iraqi terrorist, Khay Rhanajet, didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with 'Return to Sender' stamped on it. Not recognising the parcel, he opened it and was promptly blown to bits.
4. A student awakes early awaiting his breakfast, only to find he has run out of Coco-Shreddies.

VINTAGE BUHABS



In the good old days BUHABS had the fortune to be sponsored by Uvistat Sun Care. Something we could all have done with during that hot weekend a while ago. These two pictures show the first two BUHABS hot air balloons, wonderfully named B1 and B2. I couldn't tell you which one is which, but I can say the photos were taken during April 1989, a whole twelve years ago. BUHABS still has these balloons in storage and plans to bring them out for an air during our season of tethers planned for after the exams. Come along and decide for yourself if you prefer blue and yellow balloons or orange ones.

This will be the last issue of The Ripline edited by myself, as I am off to study at the University of Illinois in the USA next year. I hope you have enjoyed reading all my strange musings over the last year. I would like to thank all the people that have contributed ideas and articles, even if many were unprintable! Extra special thanks to Tim Locke, who always made sure I had a batch of labels for the envelopes when I needed them.

John Burnett

SPECIAL RETRIEVAL

EMAIL OUR OPERATIVES ON:



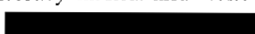
Since this is my last issue, here is a treat for all my fans out there.



TOM LICKE'S DODGY PIC'S

<http://www.mchawking.com>

Goodness knows what the people who invented this website were thinking. The thought of Stephen Hawking rapping about his pet dog Stan like Mr Eminem is quite distressing.

If you have any comments, queries, or quarrels with The Ripline (or if you feel like flexing your literary talents and writing an article yourself!) please don't hesitate to email me (John Burnett) at the following address: 

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

SUMMER AVAILABILITY 2001

Please fill in the slip below indicating when you will be free for ballooning and be in the Bristol area.

RETURN THE SLIP ASAP TO LEE HOOPER AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

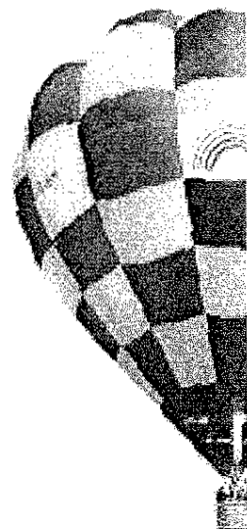
When there are slots available and you have indicated you are free you will then be contacted. If your availability changes or you would like to find out about upcoming flights then contact Lee or Peter at the address below. This is the best way to ensure you are included.

SUMMER CONTACT: LEE HOOPER

PLEASE KEEP THIS SIDE SOMEWHERE SAFE

PLEASE DETACH THIS SIDE AND POP IT IN THE POST

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NAME: _____

CONTACT ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

UNIVERSITY EMAIL: _____

OTHER EMAIL: _____